Increase in Cross Border Violence in Jammu and Kashmir

3383. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in the cross border violence in Jammu and Kashmir after the acceptance of the invitation by the President of Pakistan to visit India and during the summit at Agra;

(b) the number of incidences of exchange of fire between the security forces of both the countries and between mercenaries/terrorists and Indian security forces;

(c) the loss of lives and property suffered by the defence and civilians *vis-a-vis* terrorists in the encounters; and

(d) the action being taken to avert such encounters in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) There has not been any spurt in the cross-border terrorism during the said period.

According to available information, the number of incidents of exchange of firing between the security forces of the two countries and between the terrorists and the Indian security forces and the casualties among the civilians and the security forces vis-a-vis the terrorists and the details of damage to property are as under:—

Period	No. of incidents of exchange of firing between the security forces of both the countries	No. of incedentsof exchange of firing between security forces and terrorists	No. of terrorists killed	No. of security forces killed	No. of civilia killed
24.5.2001 to 30.7.2001	157	370	488	87	23

Four shops, seven houses and two mosques were damaged.

A multi-pronged proactive approach to effectively counter infiltration and the conduct of synergised counter proxy war operations in the hinterland

are the major components of action being taken to deal with cross border terrorism while ensuring security of own posts. Operations are being launched to specifically target the terrorists.

Shortage of young officers in Army

3384. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Army is facing a shortage of young officers;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is affecting the combat potential of the army as may have ben experienced during the Kargil conflict and or the recent Poorna Vijay exercises; and

(c) the steps being taken to induct the young and more upwardly mobile officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Army has been experiencing shortage of young officers which has some impact on the combat potential of the Army.

(c) Several steps have been initiated by the Government. An Image Projection Campaign was launched during 1997-98. The campaign has made a positive impact on the availability and selection of candidates. Steps have been taken to continue the campaign.

Waiving of Military Standards in Procurement of Non-Strategic items

3385. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to waive stringent military standards in procurement of non-strategic items required for armed forces?

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any norms would be fixed for procurement of non-strategic items for armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. (b) to (d) Do not arise